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## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 2nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 12 October 2015, at 3 p.m.

- Chair:* Mr. Charles . . . . . (Trinidad and Tobago)
- later:* Ms. Morris-Sharma (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Singapore)
- later:* Mr. Charles (Chair) . . . . . (Trinidad and Tobago)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.*

**Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism** (*continued*) (A/70/211)

1. **Mr. Mahmuduzzaman** (Bangladesh) said that terrorism in its many forms was a grave threat to international peace and security, human life, and the political order, stability and infrastructure of many countries; it disrupted normal life and the rule of law, uprooted thousands of people from their homes and undermined confidence in development efforts. However, terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Tolerance, a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, and interfaith and intercultural understanding were the best ways of promoting cooperation among societies and nations and successfully combating terrorism. The use of information technology and the social media had given rise to a nexus of terrorist networks, non-state actors and transnational criminals, posing new challenges for States and traditional approaches to combating terrorism.

2. Bangladesh had a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and had waged an uncompromising battle to root out communalism, extremism and terrorism from within its society. No cause or motivation could justify resorting to acts of terrorism. In recent years, his Government had made sustained efforts to combat terrorism and terrorist financing. The steps it had taken to ensure that Bangladesh was not used by purveyors of terrorism to harm neighbouring countries had made the region safer and more secure. The Anti-Terrorism Act and the Money-Laundering Prevention Act had been very helpful in combating terrorism. To encounter cybercrime and crime based on information technology and the social media, the Government had enacted and implemented the Information and Communication Technology Act, which would soon be strengthened. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs had recently announced the establishment of a separate court to try counter-terrorism cases at the district level and had recruited judges with specialized training to ensure fair, speedy trials. In 2014, Bangladesh had become a board member and pilot country for the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, a public-private global fund to support grassroots efforts to counter violent extremism. It used strategic

communication to address violent extremism, especially among youth.

3. The counter-terrorism strategy which the Government had adopted had drawn heavily on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which remained central to the national efforts to counter terrorism. Bangladesh was committed to the full implementation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on countering terrorism. The global counter-terrorism agenda needed to evolve through continued dialogue and should be strengthened through globally coordinated approaches, cooperation, capacity-building and sharing of best practices. Effective coordination within the United Nations system was essential in the implementation of its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The United Nations had a key role to play in capacity building at both national and regional levels. While it was only logical that every State and region would be guided by its own strategic security concerns and priorities, the four pillars of the Global Strategy could serve as a basis for the different regional and national counter-terrorism strategies.

4. **Mr. Althari** (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that terrorism constituted a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and it also contradicted the practices and principles of Islam. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group. The OIC Group reiterated the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world and welcomed all international and regional initiatives and efforts to that end.

5. The Group reaffirmed commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. It was essential to follow a comprehensive approach by addressing the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, repression, festering international disputes and political marginalization and alienation. It was also necessary to combat all terrorist groups and organizations, wherever they existed, without any distinction. Member States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of terrorist acts; preventing the provision of funds, safe havens,

assistance or weapons to terrorist groups and organizations; and refuting the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups and organizations. The OIC Group reiterated the need to distinguish between terrorism and the exercise of the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, a distinction duly reflected in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51.

6. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a living document that should be updated and re-examined regularly and implemented in a balanced manner. Member States should cooperate in banning the payment of ransoms demanded by terrorist groups. It was important to enhance capacity-building to assist Member States in implementing their obligations under United Nations resolutions by increasing the resources for United Nations entities and departments entrusted with that task and by enhancing bilateral technical assistance and technology transfer.

7. The OIC Group reaffirmed its commitment to negotiating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and underscored the need to make progress in that regard. It reiterated its previous proposal on the scope of the draft convention and its determination to make every effort to reach a consensus agreement by resolving the outstanding issues, including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, in particular the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation or colonial or alien domination, and the scope of the acts to be covered by the instrument. The Group once again called for the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to arrive at an agreed definition of terrorism.

8. Noting that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre had begun its work as part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office in New York following the contribution agreement signed by the United Nations and his Government, the OIC Group encouraged all Member States to take advantage of the Centre's activities and to contribute to its support.

9. **Ms. Dieguez La O** (Cuba) stressed Cuba's unwavering determination to combat terrorism and its categorical condemnation of all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, irrespective of their motivation, including in cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved. The fight against terrorism must take a holistic approach, combining direct confrontation, prevention and measures to eradicate its root causes.

10. The fourth biennial United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review process had resulted in a General Assembly resolution (68/276) that recognized the efforts made by States and international organizations, taking into account their specific regional and national circumstances. However, the resolution lacked a clear condemnation of unilateral acts by certain States which illegitimately arrogated to themselves the right to certify conduct and to establish politically motivated lists, in violation of international law. Cuba strongly condemned such acts, which undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in combating terrorism. Moreover, the harmful practice whereby certain States financed, supported or promoted subversive acts aimed at "regime change" and messages of intolerance and enmity towards other peoples, cultures and political systems with the help of modern information and communications technologies was a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Such actions, which had been repudiated by the international community, should also be in the focus of attention when addressing international terrorism. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Cuba condemned any action aimed at encouraging, supporting, financing or concealing any terrorist act, method or practice. The international community could not accept that, under the banner of a so-called fight against terrorism, certain States carried out acts of aggression, directly or indirectly, against sovereign peoples and committed flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Cuba also firmly rejected the manipulation of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as an instrument for use against any country.

11. Cuba was a party to 18 international conventions on terrorism, and it reaffirmed its determination to continue working to strengthen the central role of the

United Nations in the adoption of measures and the elaboration of a broad legal framework to fight that scourge. It reiterated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would fill in existing legal lacunae, and it was in favour of convening an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to provide an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Neither goal had been reached because of the opposition of a small group of States, whose actions indicated a preference for waging a war on terrorism outside the scope of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

12. In defence of its independence and dignity, Cuba had for decades suffered the consequences of terrorist acts that had left 3,478 dead and 2,099 disabled. The terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who had masterminded the explosion in mid-flight of a Cubana de Aviación airliner on 6 October 1976, resulting in the death of 73 persons, was still at large; that had been the first terrorist act against international civil aviation in the western hemisphere.

13. Cuba had never participated in the organization, financing or commission of an act of terrorism against any country, and it had never assisted and would never assist acts of international terrorism. Cuban territory had never been used and never would be used to organize, finance or commit terrorist acts against any country. Her Government reiterated its support for multilateral and bilateral cooperation to counter international terrorism and was determined to work with all countries on preventing and suppressing terrorist acts.

14. **Mr. Al-Malik** (Qatar) said that the international community had become increasingly aware of the threat terrorism posed to international peace and security and to the sovereignty, integrity and stability of many States. Qatar reaffirmed its total condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, regardless of where, by whom or why it was committed. Qatar had acceded to the relevant United Nations instruments and cooperated with the United Nations and Member States in fighting terrorism. A solution to the problem of terrorism could not be achieved by military means alone. Qatar stressed the importance of examining the root causes of terrorism, so that it could be eliminated once and for all. It was essential to resolve ongoing conflicts, to put an end to foreign occupation and to recognize the right of peoples to self-determination in

accordance with international resolutions. State terrorism and tyrannical regimes which practised exclusion and marginalization must be rejected.

15. Recent events had evidenced a disregard for the rule of law. Many parts of the world had witnessed atrocities and violations of the rights of peoples and individuals. On several occasions the international community had been slow to take action to deal with the causes leading to terrorism. The supposed link between terrorism and certain ethnic groups or religions was false but was utilized by terrorists to mislead young people. Qatar opposed any attempt to link terrorism to any particular State or religion.

16. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism was needed more than ever, and Qatar would participate actively in the efforts of the working group with a view to completing the elaboration of such an instrument. It also called for a high-level conference under United Nations auspices on the question, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/127. Such an instrument must provide a clear definition of terrorism, which could not be linked to any particular ethnic group or religion or culture. A distinction must be made between terrorism and legitimate self-defence by peoples subjected to foreign domination. Terrorist organizations and criminals took advantage of that gap in international law. If such a convention were adopted, it would make it possible to prosecute terrorists more effectively and strengthen States' capacity to deal with the scourge.

17. Qatar was worked at the national, regional and international levels to combat terrorism, and it had implemented the relevant United Nations resolutions. It had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the 2005 Protocol to it. Qatar continued to cooperate with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate (CTED) in implementing its national strategy to combat terrorism, including through exchanges of information, visits and workshops.

18. The Silatech organization, which was based in Doha and worked at the regional level, had stepped up its efforts to provide workshops for young people with the aim of protecting them against the influence of

extremists. The organization was considering a partnership with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Qatar was also cooperating with the Global Counterterrorism Forum on combating violent extremism. It was a party to many bilateral agreements on security cooperation, and it worked with the judicial authorities in other countries. In April 2015 Qatar had hosted the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It continued to strengthen its legislative framework for combating terrorism, including money-laundering and cybercrime in relation to terrorism, and was monitoring several associations in the country to ensure that they did not support terrorism in any way. Qatar had set up a number of national committees to combat terrorism. It was considered to have a high level of compliance with the FATF standards on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

19. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala) said that Guatemala reaffirmed its categorical rejection of all terrorist acts and reiterated its commitment to preventing and combating terrorism. Governments must strengthen the rule of law in their own countries in order to develop social “antibodies” against terrorism and other forms of crime. It was true that at times terrorism took root by benefiting from the presence of crime for its operations, and that terrorist groups sometimes turned to organized crime to finance their activities. However, such linkages should be examined on a case by case basis; to assume that terrorism and transnational organized crime were automatically linked was incorrect and dangerous, since terrorists’ motivations differed from those of other persons involved in transnational organized crime.

20. Although violent radicalization could predispose a person to terrorism, it did not always lead to terrorist activity; radicalization could also give rise to non-violent behaviour which could be equally damaging for society and the international community. Hence the need to combat all forms of extremism, irrespective of what or who was behind it. To that end, it was important to promote social integration policies and police cooperation so as to act on the causes of radicalism and improve the work of the law-enforcement authorities. It was also essential not only to prevent violent radicalization but also to take deradicalization measures. Both were important in

view of the need to focus both on the individual and on the environment. That was a challenge that exceeded the capacity of Governments and required the help of communities in resisting violent extremism.

21. International cooperation must be strengthened as the basis for an effective and sustainable response to the problem of terrorism at the global level. The importance of the regional and subregional component in that regard should also be stressed. Any assistance must be given in conformity with existing mandates, at the request of Member States, with due regard for their sovereignty and with an emphasis on national ownership of the project.

22. Lastly, her delegation urged Member States to overcome the obstacles to concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible. The current situation was conducive to the expeditious conclusion of such an instrument: the seventieth anniversary was an opportunity for the United Nations to strengthen its leadership role in efforts to combat terrorism. Her delegation reiterated its support for the efforts of the Coordinator and her proposal and hoped that substantive progress would be made at the current session towards achieving a text, adopted preferably by consensus, to confront what was currently the greatest threat to international peace and security.

23. **Ms. Argüello González** (Nicaragua) reiterated Nicaragua’s firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, of which Nicaragua, its people and its Government had been victims. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and could not be justified on such grounds.

24. Nicaragua condemned the double standards of certain countries which committed acts of aggression under the motto of “war on terrorism”, causing deaths, displacements and other human rights violations numbering in the hundreds of thousands, at the same time that they sheltered known terrorists on their territories, such as Posada Carriles, and supported and financed terrorists in other countries with the aim of promoting regime change and subjugating peoples.

25. Nicaragua would make every effort to help achieve a convention on terrorism and called on all Member States to demonstrate flexibility towards that end. The fight against terrorism must be open and

coordinated and must remain within the framework of international law.

26. As President Daniel Ortega Saavedra had put it, the growing greed of global capitalism, especially in the Middle East and Africa, had led to wars and had fomented fanaticism and terrorism, thereby sowing the seeds of insecurity and destruction and provoking armed conflict and food, environmental, labour and humanitarian crises of infinite scale and consequences. For that reason, he had stressed that the United Nations must work to promote respect, peace, sovereign security, justice and human solidarity.

27. **Mr. Essa** (Libya) reiterated his country's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of motivation and whenever and by whomsoever committed. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnic group or community. A distinction must be made between criminal terrorist acts and the legitimate struggle of peoples for the right to self-determination and against foreign occupation. Libya had acceded to all international and regional instruments on combating terrorism. Libya was facing enormous challenges following the takeover of a number of Libyan cities by terrorist groups affiliated with Al-Qaida, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Ansar al-Sharia and their attempt to overthrow the legitimate Libyan authorities in order to gain control over the country's resources. Their aim was to finance their activities and to turn Libya into a staging ground for operations in northern Africa, the African coast and the Mediterranean, thereby threatening international peace and security. It was in the interest of the international community to implement Security Council resolution 2214 (2015) and to provide for all the needs of the Libyan army in terms of weapons and other military equipment to combat those organizations, which obtained weapons illegally and promoted the movement of terrorist fighters through areas under their control. Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) must also be implemented to combat the phenomenon of foreign fighters and to take all action to address the causes.

28. There was a strong linkage between terrorism and transnational crimes, arms and drug smuggling, money-laundering, trafficking in persons, kidnappings and hostage-taking. International and regional cooperation should be enhanced to deal with those crimes. All components of the United Nations Global

Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented in a balanced and integrated manner.

29. Libya reiterated its support for the convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to study the phenomenon of terrorism, and it called on all countries to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

30. **Mr. Ciss** (Senegal) said that the expansion of international terrorism and violent extremism had attained unprecedented proportions and continued to be a source of great concern for the international community. The development of information and communications technologies and the emergence of new, more complex and multidimensional conflicts had enabled terrorists to adapt and perfect their operations. Terrorists exploited religion and made an abusive use of religious vocabulary. Terrorist groups had increasingly resorted to hostage-taking to obtain funds or political concessions. Ransom demands to finance terrorism constituted a problem that should be addressed impartially, objectively, technically and apolitically.

31. The 18 international legal instruments adopted in the context of the fight against terrorism had not yet yielded the expected results. In that connection, it was important to ensure the relevance of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by adapting it to meet new challenges.

32. In working to implement measures to eradicate international terrorism, Senegal had adopted an approach based on prevention, cooperation and rapid response. It had ratified 13 of the United Nations legal instruments relating to terrorism and also the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism of 1999 and its 2004 Protocol. At the subregional level, it had subscribed to the relevant decisions of the West African Economic and Monetary Union and of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which it chaired in 2015. Senegal participated actively in cooperation on criminal justice at the international level in the field of counter-terrorism, on control of terrestrial and maritime borders and airports and on mutual legal assistance in the areas of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In 2007 Senegal had adopted two laws introducing harsher punishment for perpetrators of acts of terrorism.

33. The recruitment of foreign fighters by terrorist organizations was a serious threat to the stability of the countries of origin, transit and destination. The report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of 24 March 2015 (S/2015/358) indicated that their numbers had exceeded 25,000 as of that date. His delegation supported the recommendation formulated in the report that financial and technical assistance should be provided to concerned Member States with the aim of reinforcing border control capacity to address the flows of foreign terrorist fighters. The international community must devise an appropriate strategy to contain that phenomenon.

34. Parts of western Africa and the Sahel-Sahara region had been plagued a number of years against terrorist gangs. The international community should show greater solidarity with the countries of Africa which had been victims of terrorism, such as Mali: its territorial integrity must be preserved and its sovereignty extended over the entire country. Particular attention should also be given to the situation in Nigeria and the neighbouring countries, whose authorities were struggling against Boko Haram.

35. The link between terrorism and transnational crimes, the subject of Security Council resolution 2195 (2014), also called for specific action. His delegation welcomed the call by the Secretary-General, in his report dated 21 May 2015, for international action to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational crime. Combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations required concerted measures, which the United Nations was responsible for coordinating, harmonizing and facilitating. In view of the apparent failure of the international community to elaborate appropriate methods, it was more urgent than ever to adopt an energetic, inclusive and coherent long-term approach, with a strengthening of subregional, regional and international cooperation. The conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism was imperative, and his delegation called for a stronger commitment by all Member States to reach a consensus on outstanding issues. His delegation commended the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force but urged it to ensure still greater consistency in the activities of its component entities and continue its efforts to help countries requesting its assistance.

36. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) said that his delegation joined others in firmly condemning terrorism in all its

forms and manifestations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and irrespective of their motivation. No ideology, religion, belief or cause could justify recourse to terrorist acts. It was in the interest of all nations to combat terrorism in its global, regional, national and local dimensions. The essence of the terrorist threat was its transnational nature; since 2001, it had spread from the Middle East to Africa and other regions. The Sahel-Sahara region faced a large number of security challenges: the rise of religious extremism, radical Islamism, terrorism, trafficking in persons, drugs and arms, and organized crime.

37. It would be useful to analyse the causes and motivations of terrorist acts, including poverty, social exclusion and marginalization, impunity, and weak institutions, as well as double standards in the application of international law. Terrorism was particularly active in fragile countries and in countries in a post-conflict situation in which the absence of the rule of law and an administrative vacuum enabled terrorist groups to develop in complete impunity and to spread their influence over an impoverished population with no hopes for the future. That was the case with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, where 5,000 men and women from Burundi were deployed as part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

38. Terrorism was a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee rights. The time had come to conclude a comprehensive convention with a unified definition of terrorism that distinguished between terrorism and acts too often categorized as such. Burundi noted the perverse effects of exaggerated surveillance and the interception of communications. The unilateral preparation of "blacklists", under which certain States were arbitrarily accused of supporting and financing terrorism, was inconsistent with the multilateralism which characterized the United Nations. Any reaction to terrorism must be based on preventive and concerted measures, with due regard for human rights and the rule of law. Those States that had not yet ratified the international conventions on combating terrorism should consider doing so. The deadlock over a definition, which was preventing an agreement from being reached on a comprehensive convention, enabled terrorists to buy time, since such an instrument would make it possible to hunt them down and would strengthen the ability of small States to combat the problem. Given the recent proliferation

of terrorist acts, all States must show the greatest flexibility in the elaboration of the draft convention.

39. As a global phenomenon, terrorism called for a global solution through international, regional and subregional cooperation, including through a greater exchange of information so as to identify the itineraries of terrorist groups. The international community must also make every effort to disrupt the financial sources of terrorism, inter alia, by putting an end to trafficking in stolen oil and to the black market for stolen antiquities. The ransoms extorted by terrorists encouraged them to plan future abductions; that vicious circle must be stopped. His delegation condemned the destruction of cultural heritage by terrorist groups, whether accidental or intentional, and religious objects and sites in particular. It was alarming that such groups stole or trafficked in artefacts from archaeological sites, museums, libraries and archives to finance recruitment or terrorist operations. Bearing in mind paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1483 (2003), all Member States must take appropriate steps to prevent trafficking in Iraqi and Syrian cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, scientific and religious importance illegally removed from Iraq since 6 August 1990 and from Syria since 15 March 2011 and to facilitate their safe return.

40. Among the alarming new developments were the increasing use by terrorists of information and communications technology and the growing recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters. In the years the international community had spent fighting the ever-evolving threat, a few things had become clear. Military intervention to combat terrorism was not sufficient. It was necessary to identify the different types of terrorist groups in order to assess their weak spots and mode of operation so as to elaborate a suitable security and defence policy. Member States must act in concert under the auspices of the United Nations, with due regard for their international obligations, and in particular must take specific measures to prosecute and extradite the perpetrators of such acts and set up an early warning and coordination system to deprive terrorists of their resources and bases.

41. **Mr. Holovka** (Serbia) said that Serbia unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed and for whatever purpose. Serbia was a party to 14 international counter-terrorism instruments

and was doing its utmost to implement relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions in full, in particular resolution 1373 (2001). Serbia attached the greatest importance to countering the contemporary threats and challenges of terrorism and all forms of extremism and radicalism. It had been one of the sponsors of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) and was an active member of the coalition against ISIL. The threat of foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism must and could only be countered through a multidimensional approach using legitimate means and with full respect for human rights.

42. To strengthen its capacity to prevent flows of foreign terrorist fighters and contribute more actively to that common effort, and bearing in mind its obligations under the European Union accession process, Serbia had undertaken a number of measures at the strategic, political, normative, institutional and operational levels, including the adoption of several national strategy documents. Serbia had been working to bring its domestic law into line with international standards, inter alia, by revising its Criminal Code, amending legislation on the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and setting some restrictions on the disposal of assets. Institutional capacities had also been reinforced. Measures had been taken to improve border security and prevent the entry of foreign terrorist fighters or their transit through Serbia, to monitor and prevent travel to conflict areas and to create conditions for the establishment of databases to monitor terrorist movements. Serbia had recently submitted a consolidated report on its capacities for implementing Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), detailing the measures taken to curb the threats and challenges associated with the movements of foreign terrorist fighters.

43. In December 2014, the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had adopted a Declaration on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). As the Chair of the OSCE in 2015, Serbia had placed great emphasis on implementing the Declaration. An OSCE-wide expert-level conference had been held from 30 June to 1 July in Vienna on countering incitement to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorists. Drawing on the

discussions at the event, the Chair had issued a paper on the outcomes and recommendations that provided a sound basis for the adoption of an OSCE Ministerial Council document on countering violent extremism and radicalization that led to terrorism, which would contribute to the discussions in the United Nations on countering violent extremism and the adoption of a United Nations plan of action to prevent violent extremism. Two other events had also been held recently: on 3 and 4 September, an event on youth and radicalization had been organized in Belgrade, and on 7 and 8 October, an expert workshop had been held in Bucharest on media freedom and responsibilities in the context of counter-terrorist policies. Additional upcoming activities included the development of awareness-raising courses and the expected launch of a training programme to empower civil society leaders, including youth, women and religious figures, to speak out, mobilize others and launch initiatives against intolerance and violent extremism.

44. Serbia was ready to contribute, in coordination with its partners around the world, to combating terrorist threats and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters at the national, regional, European and global levels. In that regard his delegation emphasized the role of the United Nations as the leader at global level.

45. It was to be hoped that the working group of the Sixth Committee that was to reconvene at the current session would succeed in finalizing the text of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism: there was good reason to do so now, and the political will was present.

46. **Mr. Heumann** (Israel) said that in his country the threat of terrorism was far from theoretical. Over the course of the past two weeks, Israel had faced a brutal campaign of terror, including car bombs, stabbings and stonings. More than 25 terrorist attacks had taken place in cities across the country, resulting in death or injury to innocent civilians. Israel confronted those threats on all its borders. Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, had launched thousands of rockets and mortars against Israeli civilians from residential areas. It had set up its military command centres in hospitals and schools, abused United Nations facilities for weapons storage and as launching pads, and used innocent civilians as human shields. Israelis had also been targeted in the north, where Hezbollah stored thousands of rockets in heavily populated

neighbourhoods and embedded its military infrastructure in civilian areas as it prepared for the next round of attacks against Israel.

47. If the international community was serious about eliminating terrorism, it must start with terrorism's leading sponsor: the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran's bloody fingerprints were on hundreds of terror campaigns that had claimed thousands of innocent lives. Those terrorist attacks had been planned, funded and executed by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Forces under the command of the prime architect of terror: Qassem Suleimani. If the international community thought Iran's behaviour would change after the agreement with the P5+1, a clear message to the contrary had already been sent. Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, had declared, even before signing the agreement, that Iran would continue to support terrorists in the Middle East and around the world. After signing the agreement, Khamenei had stated that Iran's goal was to eliminate Israel from the map in 25 years. Iran would not change its behaviour. The question was how much more death and destruction Iran would cause before the international community responded.

48. Despite the gravity of those threats, Israel was doing its utmost to ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complied with its obligations under international law. Israel's determination to combat terrorism went hand in hand with its commitment to respect the rule of law.

49. International terrorism could not operate without a continuous flow of funds. The Security Council had recognized the danger of State-sponsored terrorism and had repeatedly called on all States to prevent the financing of terrorists and terrorist organizations. The targeting of financial resources that supported terrorism was a major counter-terrorism tool available to States. Disrupting the funding could effectively interrupt the growth and activity of terrorist organizations around the world. It had been Israel's experience that financial measures such as designations and the freezing of assets could help prevent the next deadly terror attack. Those measures must be supported by intelligence-sharing and cooperation by States.

50. Israel was a party to the core universal instruments on counter-terrorism and was a dedicated partner in the global fight against terrorism. It implemented Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

in full and had adapted its legislation to ensure compliance with Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). Israel welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters, which provided a strong example of how existing mechanisms could be utilized to counter new and emerging threats. Israel supported the central role of the United Nations in countering terrorism worldwide. It looked forward to engaging actively in the fifth review of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Global Strategy, and it joined the call for all four pillars of the Strategy to be implemented in an integrated and balanced manner.

51. Out of necessity, Israel had become an expert in the field of counter-terrorism and it was sharing its knowledge with Governments around the world. It had contributed its expertise on a broad range of issues — from combating the financing of terrorism to forensic investigation methods and technologies, and from aviation security to border protection. A few months previously, an Israeli prosecutor had participated in a special meeting of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee, held in Madrid, on “Stemming the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters”. As part of its efforts to counter violent extremism, in November Israel would host the second international conference on the so-called lone wolf phenomenon, an event organized together with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the OSCE. Those activities reflected Israel’s fundamental belief that terrorism could only be effectively confronted through international cooperation.

52. The only way for the international community to combat the threat of terrorism was by implementing a zero tolerance approach. Terrorism could not run without the fuel of incitement, intolerance, hatred and the glorification of death and martyrdom. Any plan to cultivate a culture of peace and coexistence must focus on education.

53. The topic under consideration had been on the agenda of the Sixth Committee for many years, but several issues were still unresolved. It was important to begin by agreeing on a clear definition of terrorism that included all forms and manifestations of terror. Failure to do so would compromise the ability to combat terrorism effectively. Terror and violent extremism were a threat that could not be ignored; the Sixth

Committee must send the clear message that no cause or grievance justified terrorism.

54. **Ms. Gebremedhin** (Eritrea) reaffirmed Eritrea’s unequivocal condemnation of extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism should not be associated with any single religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. In combating extremism and terrorism, any action taken must be consistent with international law.

55. Terrorism and extremism continued to pose a major challenge to international peace and security as well as development, one that required collective action and international cooperation. In many parts of sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, terrorism’s presence was real and mounting. The crisis in Yemen and the spread of terrorism and extremism constituted threats to the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region, including Eritrea.

56. Eritrea continued to strengthen its cultural and legal instruments to prevent and suppress all forms of extremism and terrorism. It had recently published its new Penal Code, and in September 2014 it had enacted the Anti-Money-Laundering and Terrorist Financing Proclamation. Eritrea was a party to the African Union (AU)/Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and other relevant regional conventions, including the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) Convention on Mutual Assistance in Security Matters. In June 2015, Eritrea had participated in the Regional Conference on Countering Violent Extremism, which had been held in Nairobi.

57. Eritrea supported United Nations efforts to address the danger of terrorism and was convinced that balanced implementation of all pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was crucial. It had sponsored Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), which it welcomed as an effort to strengthen international cooperation to combat all forms of extremism and terrorism. Eritrea had attended the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee held in Madrid on 27 and 28 July 2015 to discuss ways to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

58. Eritrea, with 1,200 kilometres of coastline and more than 350 islands, was located in the volatile Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region. It was a peaceful and harmonious country with a population that was 50 per

cent Christian and 50 per cent Moslem. Any development concerning peace and security in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea region directly affected Eritrea's security and economic development. Eritrea was fully committed to the relevant Security Council resolutions on combating global terrorism and extremism. For Eritrea to contribute effectively to the fight against global terrorism and extremism and to protect its sovereignty and territorial waters, it was of paramount importance for the Security Council to lift the unjust sanctions unconditionally and immediately, an action that would enhance peace and security in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea region, whereas maintaining the sanctions was a recipe for disaster and chaos.

59. **Mr. Fachir** (Indonesia) said that terrorism had become increasingly transnational. Terrorist groups had become a magnet for foreign terrorist fighters, who served as agents for spreading the message of radicalism. The world must also cope with home-grown terrorists, a phenomenon which reflected the global dissemination of extremism and radicalism and did not require actual contact with terrorist groups. Such a situation was not only a side-effect of progress in communication technology but was also a challenge to the notion of "freedom of expression".

60. Terrorism's root causes and manifestations were becoming more complex. Although the misuse of religion for terrorist purposes was widespread, it was no longer the underlying cause of terrorism. Other factors contributing to the development of extremism and terrorism included bigotry and intolerance, anger about exclusion, marginalization or discrimination, and the sense of threat from another group. Prolonged conflicts also played an instrumental role in shaping extremist views and providing a safe haven for terrorist groups, as could be seen in the Middle East.

61. It was essential to be more creative in devising responses and solutions to extremism and terrorism. It was no longer possible to rely on harsh measures, some of which, such as imprisonment or military intervention, had only led to further radicalization. That was especially true if such measures were carried out in a manner incompatible with human rights commitments. A preventive approach and soft measures must become part of the mainstream response. While law enforcement continued to be paramount, dialogue, respect and tolerance must be promoted in a more globalized and systematic way. For

its part, Indonesia had for years been active in promoting a spirit of tolerance and empowering those with moderate views. At the national level, his Government had engaged civil society and religious leaders, including those from the two largest Islamic organizations, Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, to devise an alternative narrative to extremism.

62. Multilateral cooperation, led by the United Nations, must be capable of responding to the dynamic threat of extremism and terrorism. The United Nations must be among the first to understand the changing nature of extremism and terrorism: how it emerged, and how it affected peace and security at different levels. It must also be the advocate of a rethinking and evaluation of global counter-terrorism efforts. The multi-stakeholder approach should continue to be strengthened and include all relevant partners: media, and religious and other communities as well as government institutions. Injustice and inequality must be addressed urgently, as they could provoke anger and extremism. At the global level, the United Nations must work harder to ensure that agreed international rules were applicable to all. At the national level, it must be more focused on assisting States in implementing principles of good governance and inclusive development.

63. Equally important was how the United Nations met its responsibility to prevent conflicts, find political solutions to ongoing conflicts and help States in post-conflict situations. Terrorists continued to take advantage of conflict areas or countries in which government authority was diminished. Accordingly, the United Nations must step up its efforts to restore and maintain peace and to help in rebuilding the State institutions needed to combat terrorists.

64. Indonesia would continue to be a reliable partner in the framework of global cooperation to counter extremism and terrorism. It looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's global plan of action to prevent violent extremism early in 2016 and to contributing to efforts to devise ways and means of ensuring its effective implementation. It was to be hoped that the plan of action would provide clear operational guidance for the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

65. **Mr. Abdulahi** (Nigeria) said that terrorism constituted one of the most serious and deadliest threats to international peace and security. It was

insidious in character and transnational in nature. The debilitating effects of terrorist acts, including the erosion of law and order, the destabilization of structures of governance and their negative impact on economic growth, had adversely affected development and stability in many countries. Terrorism was organized in a tightly woven network, and it would take a network to untangle it. With that understanding came the realization of the importance of an all-inclusive regional and international collaborative approach to deter and defeat terrorists.

66. For that reason, his delegation had expressed its support for the initiative of establishing a working group to finalize the draft of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Nigeria noted the understanding that a compromise would be sought in the three key areas that had been impeding progress, namely the question of exclusion from the scope of the convention of acts committed during an armed conflict in situations of foreign occupation, the question of the exclusion of acts by the military forces of a State during peacetime and the question of the inclusion of acts considered to constitute State terrorism. Nigeria remained optimistic that a consensus could be reached at the current session of the General Assembly that would address those issues and other concerns, such as the convention's title.

67. Nigeria was facing the challenge of the terrorist group Boko Haram, which indiscriminately targeted civilians, Muslims and Christians alike, places of worship, recreational centres, media establishments and even a United Nations building. Those acts strengthened Nigeria's resolve to resist terrorism through the development of new national plans and closer cooperation with its neighbours and the international community. The new Government in Nigeria had moved with dispatch to put into effect a robust strategy to defeat Boko Haram. Nigeria and its neighbours Cameroon, Chad and Niger as well as Benin were working together to confront the common threat within the subregional framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission by setting up a multinational joint task force.

68. Beyond the West African subregion, Nigeria remained committed to working closely with all United Nations counter-terrorism entities. It welcomed the role played by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism

Centre in the fight against terrorism as well as the synergy evolving between the Centre and the entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

69. Cyberthreats, which were one aspect of growing global security challenges, had become an aspect of terrorism. They could cause mass disruption of business communications, industry, service delivery and the functioning of Governments. Every attack, regardless of its target, posed a global threat to commerce and communications among nations, and it was essential to develop an approach to address that danger. The war against terrorism could only be won through the firm resolve of all United Nations Member States. States parties must ensure full compliance with all United Nations resolutions and conventions relating to terrorism and its financing as well as their regional counter-terrorism instruments. That treaty framework would provide a basis for cooperation among Member States.

70. **Ms. Mwaipopo** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that no country or people could claim immunity from the ravages of terrorism. The recent recurrence of terrorist attacks should strengthen the resolve of the international community to eliminate that scourge. Terrorism was evolving, shifting away from a dependency on State sponsorship; most of the dangerous groups and individuals were now operating as non-State actors, taking advantage of porous borders and interconnected international systems of finance and communications. While some terrorist groups focused on national political dynamics, others pursued a wider agenda.

71. There was an urgent need to step up efforts at all levels to fight terrorism. Much more could be done collectively to improve preparedness, cooperation and response to the threat. International counter-terrorism conventions and protocols provided important tools and a framework for combating different aspects of terrorism, but for those initiatives to be effective, all States must adhere to them. States must also enhance their national capacities in order to strengthen their responses to evolving challenges. Cooperation and coordination should be strengthened in the areas of capacity building, information-sharing and the suppression of terrorist financing. A culture of tolerance and mutual respect among peoples and nations should be fostered and the root causes of terrorism addressed by promoting responsive and inclusive governance, human rights and the rule of law.

Resources to support such efforts remained inadequate. The United Republic of Tanzania commended the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and appealed to the international community for the necessary assistance to enable States to fulfil their obligations and commitments.

72. In her country counter-terrorism efforts continued unabated in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The United Republic of Tanzania was a party to nine universal counter-terrorism instruments and one regional instrument and had taken administrative and legislative measures to eliminate international terrorism. National counter-terrorism officials had attended seminars which focused on strengthening capacity. Tanzania also worked closely with neighbours on the issue. Programmes had been initiated to alleviate poverty and give the nation's youth a sense of self-dependence, purpose and pride in the collective unity of the United Republic of Tanzania as a country and a people.

73. Efforts should be stepped up to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It was to be hoped that the collective repudiation of terrorism would strengthen the political will and flexibility needed to resolve outstanding issues.

74. A successful fight against terrorism would promote peace and security, which were important prerequisites for economic and social development. If the vision of the Agenda 2030 was to be realized, greater efforts must be made to counter terrorism and violent extremism, for the betterment of humanity. The Sixth Committee had an important role to play in achieving that goal, and it could count on the support of the United Republic of Tanzania in that regard.

75. *Ms. Morris-Sharma (Singapore), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

76. **Ms. Mukhametzyanova** (Russian Federation) said that, as recent events had clearly shown, terrorism continued to be one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. There had been an unprecedented surge of terrorist activity in the Middle East and northern Africa; in Iraq and Syria, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Jabhat al-Nusra and other groups linked to Al-Qaida were raging, spreading their pernicious influence literally throughout the world. ISIL continued to attempt to establish itself in Libya and in the region of

Afghanistan and Pakistan. Terrorists were successfully building their ideological and material potential and were skilfully adapting to changing circumstances. The link between international terrorism and transnational organized crime was growing, including in the areas of oil revenues and the smuggling of drugs, cultural artefacts and wildlife.

77. The presence of foreign terrorist fighters was a growing danger. Measures to combat that phenomenon called for a holistic approach, combining an exchange of information, a strengthening of border controls, work on transport communications to identify fighters from conflict areas, and joint efforts to collect information about the participation of "jihad tourists" in terrorist actions. That approach would require appropriate adaptation of national legislation and greater bilateral cooperation between special services, law enforcement authorities, border control, customs and immigration services, and financial investigators.

78. The Russian Federation had consistently advocated broadening and enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the United Nations as the central coordinator and with strict respect for the relevant norms and principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. It was of paramount importance to continue efforts under the auspices of the United Nations to prevent terrorism, reduce its appeal, oppose the spread of terrorist ideologies and violent extremism and use the media and the Internet to promote tolerance and mutual understanding between ethnic and religious groups and reject ideologies of enmity and violence.

79. The fight against terrorism could only be won through a coordinated and comprehensive approach by all members of the international community, without politicization or double standards. Counter-terrorist action must be in strict conformity with international law and the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including the principle of State sovereignty; otherwise, it would not achieve the desired result. That was the aim of the recent initiative put forward by President Putin to coordinate the action of all forces combating ISIL and other terrorist bodies and to adopt a Security Council resolution in that regard.

80. Strict implementation by all States of the relevant Security Council resolutions was the guarantee of success in the fight against terrorism. The Russian

Federation supported the measures carried out under the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to ensure the implementation by States of the Security Council's counter-terrorism resolutions. It welcomed the contribution to the Security Council's subsidiary bodies from their expert bodies.

81. Close cooperation was also needed between the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its constituent bodies. The Russian Federation looked forward to a results-based discussion during the review of the achievements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2016. It was important to preserve the Strategy's current balanced approach, which enabled it to remain a universal platform for effectively countering terrorism. The Russian Federation looked forward with interest to the Secretary-General's global plan of action to prevent violent extremism. It trusted that it would be geared to implementing the Strategy and would be based on the central role of States in countering terrorism, inter alia, by neutralizing violent extremism, which led to terrorism.

82. There continued to be a need to strengthen the legal basis of international counter-terrorism cooperation by increasing the circle of participants and ensuring better implementation of major international conventions and protocols. An additional impetus in that regard could be provided by reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. His delegation would continue to contribute to the search for a compromise solution on wording on which disagreement persisted.

83. Participation by regional organizations in global efforts to combat terrorism was one of the most important aspects of international counter-terrorism cooperation. Considerable positive experience in that regard had been gathered by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. With the active participation of the Russian Federation, those regional bodies took measures to improve the legal basis of the fight against terrorism and to harmonize legislation. Joint counter-terrorism courses were conducted on a regular basis, including training for experts in various fields.

84. **Mr. Jo Jong Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that terrorist acts were a threat to international and regional peace and security, as well as to the territorial integrity and security of legitimate sovereign States, and had adverse consequences for economic and social development. Hence there was a need for the international community to step up joint efforts to address acts of terrorism.

85. International action to combat terrorism should first give attention to eradicating State terrorism. Military invasions conducted against sovereign States such as the Syrian Arab Republic on the pretext of a "war on terrorism" were bound to trigger terrorism and retaliation, thus causing large-scale bloodshed. State terrorism constituted one of the gravest forms of terrorism. Its aim was to change the regime of sovereign States in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which enshrined respect for sovereignty, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Certain States, for their own national interests, had categorized others as sponsors of terrorism and had imposed sanctions on them, and they had resorted to overthrowing legitimate Governments, not hesitating to give support to the armed terrorist groups fighting against their Governments. One example of State terrorism was the hostile policy of the United States of America aimed at bringing down the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. State terrorism could not be justified, and the pretext of combating terrorism should not be misused by States to pursue their political objectives. Consequently, the comprehensive convention on international terrorism currently under preparation must include the objective of eradicating State terrorism.

86. His delegation supported the proposal to convene a high-level meeting on terrorism; such an event could contribute to devising joint international countermeasures to address its root causes, which included domination and interference, poverty and social inequality, and racial and religious discrimination.

87. His Government consistently opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and any assistance for terrorist acts. It had long been exposed to terrorist threats aimed at toppling the State social system. Countering terrorism was thus an important way of defending State sovereignty and protecting people's lives.

88. His Government had signed a number of international counter-terrorism conventions, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and was amending and supplementing national legislation and taking an active part in international efforts to combat that scourge. It had established a national coordinating committee for the suppression of money-laundering and financial support for terrorism and was implementing an action plan in that regard. Consistent with its policy of supporting international cooperation on combating terrorism, his Government would do its part to help put an end to terrorist acts globally and build a peaceful and stable world.

89. **Ms. Zeytinoğlu Özkan** (Turkey) said that Turkey strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The previous Saturday, Ankara had been hit by one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in the country's recent history. That cowardly act, which had claimed the lives of at least 100 persons and injured many more, had strengthened Turkey's resolve to fight the scourge. Her delegation was grateful to those who had expressed solidarity with her country.

90. Given the global and transnational character of terrorism, the challenge posed by terrorism could only be addressed through international solidarity and effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation. All terrorist organizations must be fought with the same resolve. A selective approach to terrorist organizations was unacceptable. A terrorist organization should not and could not be legitimized under the pretext that it was fighting another terrorist organization. Similarly, terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group. All States must take the necessary measures so that members of terrorist organizations, including the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C), were brought to justice. In that context, implementation of the universal principle of "extradite or prosecute" was crucial. Under no circumstances should safe havens be provided to members of terrorist organizations. A clear message must be sent that no act of terrorism would go unpunished. Turkey expected that Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) would be implemented in full. Members of terrorist organizations, including those targeting Turkey, namely the terrorist organizations ISIL, PKK and DHKP-C, must not be prevented from being brought to justice through the granting of

asylum. States must not turn a blind eye to the propaganda and the financial and recruitment activities of terrorist organizations.

91. ISIL adherents and foreign terrorist fighters transiting through Turkey to conflict zones posed an imminent threat to Turkey's security, and Turkish authorities were making every effort to cope with the problem. In addition to national measures, such as a tightening of border controls and the establishment of a no-entry list, which had prevented a considerable number of foreign terrorist fighters from reaching conflict zones, Turkey had from the outset stressed that foreign terrorist fighters were a global threat requiring a global response and had called for global cooperation and information-sharing. Against that backdrop, Turkey expected timely information-sharing about individuals suspected of being foreign terrorist fighters. Cooperation in that regard was not yet at a desired level. Some States were reluctant to share information. It was important for source countries to take swift measures to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from travelling to conflict zones. Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) set out requirements that were the same for source, transit and destination countries.

92. Turkey took an active stance in the fight against terrorism. It was co-chairing the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and also the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL working group on foreign terrorist fighters. The United Nations, however, was the main platform for promoting a concerted approach to countering terrorism. Turkey was a party to most United Nations conventions and protocols on terrorism and actively contributed to capacity-building efforts and the work of United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, as well as that of regional organizations. It would soon start capacity-building training in four African countries in partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Centre. Turkey took an active part in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and it was pleased to have facilitated the latest resolution on the outcome of the fourth Strategy review in June 2014. It looked forward to continuing its cooperation with all its partners in the run-up to the tenth year of the Strategy's adoption.

93. Unresolved conflicts and mismanaged crises, resulting in mass displacements, intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia, paved the way for

violent extremism. Radicalization and the root causes that led young people to embrace violent extremism must be effectively addressed, and Turkey welcomed the many steps recently taken by the international community in that regard. The White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism held in February 2015 had launched a new process at the global level, and Turkey welcomed the more recent Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism held on 29 September 2015. It looked forward to the Secretary-General's global plan of action to prevent violent extremism. To reduce vulnerability to extremist ideologies, it was vital to address conditions conducive to terrorism. In Turkey, several government agencies were involved in those efforts through measures taken in the areas of security, youth, education and social policy institutions. The Office of Religious Affairs also played a positive role by promoting messages of tolerance. As the co-chair of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, Turkey had been contributing to the debate on countering violent extremism. Over the course of four years it had developed important tools in the form of best practices and framework documents. Most recently, at the sixth ministerial meeting of the Forum, held on 26 September 2015, a new initiative to address the life-cycle of radicalization to violence had been launched.

94. Efforts to dismantle networks for the recruitment and financing of terrorist groups must continue. Bearing in mind the close link between terrorism and organized crime, work must continue on combating drug trafficking, money-laundering and arms smuggling, which were a primary sources of financing for terrorism. Turkey had taken many measures at the Turkish-Syrian and Turkish-Iraqi borders to counter oil smuggling attempts by ISIL, even before the issue of curbing the financing of the organization had been on the agenda of the international community. It had also condemned the destruction of cultural heritage by ISIL as a crime against humanity and had enhanced measures to prevent the smuggling of archaeological artefacts from conflict zones.

95. Turkey reaffirmed its commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The strong stance that must be taken against terrorism must be based firmly on democratic principles and the rule of law.

96. *Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago) resumed the Chair.*

97. **Ms. Abdullah** (Iraq) said that Iraq condemned all forms and manifestations of terrorist acts, which had become a serious threat to international peace and security. Terrorists targeted public institutions and civilians of all nationalities, religions and ethnic groups. Iraq had been one of the first countries to have been struck by terrorists, who had sought to expand their control over the largest possible area. They had their own financing methods, including oil smuggling, human trafficking and the looting of archaeological sites. They had demolished mosques, churches and cemeteries, murdered women, children and older persons, and had embarked on the destruction of the historical sites of the Nimrod and Syrian civilizations, selling symbols of Iraq's cultural heritage on the black market to finance their operations.

98. Joint cooperation and concerted efforts could help overcome terrorism. Iraq welcomed Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), which condemned all commercial or economic activities linked to terrorism and the smuggling of the Iraqi cultural heritage from historical sites, museums and libraries to finance the recruitment of foreign fighters and strengthen their ability to carry out terrorist attacks.

99. To develop measures for eliminating international terrorism, it was essential to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. The actions of ISIL had led to mass emigration of the Iraqi people. Iraq had been forced to spend heavily on security and military forces, and the economy had suffered, which had had a negative impact on social stability. It was also important to provide assistance to the victims of terrorism. Iraqi security forces had regained control over a number of regions previously occupied by terrorist groups, but the biggest challenge was how to help the country's three million refugees and displaced persons.

100. International cooperation on countering terrorism and organized crime must be enhanced. It was also necessary to exchange information on the movements of foreign terrorist fighters. Implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions was vital to addressing that phenomenon. National and international regulatory entities must improve their ability to monitor the financing of terrorism, money-laundering and trafficking in persons, including women.

101. Criminal terrorist groups constituted the greatest threat to international peace and security, and Iraq was committed to achieving a comprehensive international counter-terrorism convention to combat them.

102. **Mr. Kravik** (Norway) said that the unprecedented brutality of ISIL, a group with political and territorial ambitions, clearly demonstrated the ability of terrorist organizations to adapt and pose fundamental threats not only to the immediate region, but to the international community as a whole, which must take decisive steps to contain and defeat them. ISIL and other terrorists groups were attracting thousands of foreign terrorist fighters from around the world, and Norway was not immune to that development. Over the course of the past few years, some one hundred Norwegians had joined various violent extremist groups that had been involved in mass atrocities. Persons joining terrorist groups abroad caused devastating damage to local populations, and they also represented a serious threat when they returned to their home countries. Hence there was a need for both a national and collective response.

103. Norway opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Preventing terrorism required a comprehensive and long-term approach which included a broad range of political, legal and economic measures and, as a last resort, military means. Norway was fully committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It would continue to work for its full and effective implementation, and it urged others to do the same. To put a stop to terrorism, violent extremism must be defeated. It was important to work together to eradicate the root causes of extremist attitudes. In June, Norway had hosted one of the regional conferences to follow up on the Washington Summit on Countering Violent Extremism. The conference had led to the creation of a network for European youth leaders, the establishment of a global alliance of women's organizations to counter violent extremism and the promotion of the Strong Cities initiative.

104. Norway supported multilateralism and strong United Nations leadership in a wide range of areas. The unanimous adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 had given the United Nations a sound basis for serving as a strategic leader on counter-terrorism issues, both at the normative level and through the coordination of multilateral efforts. If the United Nations was to fulfil

its leadership role, all Member States must give their full support. In that connection, Norway welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to draw up a new plan of action to prevent violent extremism. Norway supported the important role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in coordinating United Nations efforts to assist Member States in implementing all four pillars of the Global Strategy.

105. Norway had implemented 13 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and related protocols, and it encouraged all States to ratify and implement those instruments. That alone was not sufficient, however. An overarching and comprehensive instrument was needed to provide the necessary legal guidance and predictability if the joint goal of eradicating international terrorism was to be achieved. It was encouraging that the Security Council had unanimously adopted resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters with the sponsorship of more than 100 States, including Norway, thereby illustrating the common resolve of the international community to combat the threat posed by ISIL and other terrorist groups. That same common resolve provided an opportunity to agree on an international definition of terrorism. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism would reflect the United Nation's commitment and ability to combat terrorism, while fully upholding international law, including human rights and humanitarian law, and would enhance international cooperation in that field. An agreement on a comprehensive convention would also show that the General Assembly was the principal international treaty-making and norm-setting body, including in the area of the fight against terrorism.

106. On 19 May 2015, the Council of Europe had adopted an Additional Protocol to the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), the protocol stipulated that certain acts must be criminalized in the domestic law of Member States. Those acts included traveling abroad for the purpose of committing terrorist acts, funding and organizing such travel, participating in an association or group for the purpose of committing terrorist acts and receiving terrorism training. The Additional Protocol would serve as an important tool for preventing persons from traveling to join ISIL or other terrorist groups abroad.

Norway was ready to sign the Additional Protocol in Riga on 22 October. Despite those and other important efforts, regional instruments would be unable to attain their full potential without an internationally agreed definition of terrorism. Only the United Nations, with its universally recognized role in setting norms and legal standards, could resolve that issue.

107. Sanctions were an important tool for countering the financing of terrorism and restricting the travel of persons responsible for terrorist crimes. Norway had frozen several accounts belonging to Norwegian citizens participating in terrorist organizations and persons designated by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011). The role of the Office of the Ombudsperson was vital to upholding human rights standards under the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. Norway would work with the new Ombudsperson, Ms. Catherine Marchi-Uhel, to meet the challenges that lay ahead.

108. **Mr. Niyazaliev** (Kyrgyzstan) said it was to be hoped that the perpetrators of the recent terrorist attack during a peaceful demonstration in Ankara would be brought to justice. Kyrgyzstan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it could not be justified under any circumstances. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

109. Kyrgyzstan had faithfully fulfilled its obligations and was committed to constructive engagement at all levels in the fight against terrorism and extremism. Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) was a decisive step in combating foreign terrorist fighters. As part of its implementation, Kyrgyzstan had directed its efforts towards strengthening border controls and aviation security, building the capacities of law enforcement agencies and improving the exchange of information. In February and again in May, the country's courts had recognized ISIL, al-Nusrah and some other organizations as terrorist and extremist and had banned their activities in Kyrgyzstan. On 24 July 2015, legislation had been passed criminalizing mercenary activities and participation by citizens of Kyrgyzstan in armed conflicts or military actions in the territory of a foreign State.

110. Terrorism could not be overcome through the use of force; coercive methods had only a temporary effect and were therefore insufficient. The Government of

Kyrgyzstan was actively using the tools of "soft power" to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. That included improving the social and economic situation in the country, reducing poverty, creating jobs, implementing youth employment programmes, fighting corruption and reforming the law enforcement and judicial systems.

111. As a global and transnational phenomenon, terrorism could only be successfully combated by strengthening collective international cooperation mechanisms. Kyrgyzstan reiterated its firm support for all measures adopted within the framework of the United Nations for combating international terrorism. Such measures must be implemented in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant international conventions. Kyrgyzstan supported the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and welcomed the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Centre. It would continue to cooperate closely with the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee. His delegation endorsed the establishment of a working group of the Sixth Committee at the current session to finalize the drafting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to discuss the convening of a high-level conference on the issue under the auspices of the United Nations.

112. Kyrgyzstan was committed to strengthening cooperation with other countries and with relevant regional and international organizations on combating terrorism. It was working closely with the anti-terrorist structures of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. It urged all its multilateral and bilateral partners to remain mobilized in combating the inhuman and deadly phenomenon of terrorism.

113. **Ms. Kalamwina** (Zambia) said that Zambia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed its commitment to the common fight against terrorism. All acts of terrorism were criminal, inhuman and unjustifiable. The international community must work together to prevent those acts, which were contrary to all principles of international human rights and humanitarian law.

114. Zambia recognized the central role of the United Nations in coordinating efforts by Member States to

counter terrorism and strengthen their ability to prevent terrorist acts. It supported the Security Council's initiatives against terrorism. The United Nations offered the best framework for a sustainable campaign against terrorism with due regard for the principles of freedom, justice, human dignity and religious tolerance. Zambia had continued to elaborate and carry out measures to ensure that persons and organizations engaging in terrorist activities did not have a safe haven within its territory, including reform of relevant national legislation and the implementation of a number of counter-terrorism treaties. In March 2015, for example, the Government had submitted a bill to Parliament to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2007 and to establish the national End Terrorism Centre, which would provide policy and an administrative framework and mechanisms to enable the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001) to be implemented. The Government was optimistic that the bill would be enacted into law by the end of 2015.

115. Although the accomplishments of the international community in developing robust counter-terrorism instruments were significant, much remained to be done to ensure that those instruments were widely ratified and put into effect. That was particularly true for the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the amendments thereto, the 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the 2010 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts relating to International Civil Aviation and its protocol.

116. Zambia welcomed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in elaborating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. All Member States should show flexibility in their negotiations so as to reach an agreement, particularly on a definition of terrorism. Such an instrument would facilitate measures for the prosecution of terrorists and strengthen the capacity to confront terrorism, especially for developing countries.

117. **Ms. Muthukumarana** (Sri Lanka) said that terrorism was one of the greatest threats to

international peace and security. Sri Lanka unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of where, by whom and for what purpose it was committed. Terrorism had caused untold suffering over the years. State borders had collapsed as terrorist groups seized new territory, as seen in the Middle East. ISIL was erasing human history through the deliberate destruction of irreplaceable cultural heritage sites. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters was a matter of grave concern. With tens of thousands of foreign terrorist fighters from over 100 States, a more robust global response was required.

118. Sri Lanka reaffirmed its commitment to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which presented a common strategic and operational framework for fighting terrorism and protecting the right to life. Sri Lanka was a party to 13 counter-terrorism conventions and to the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). It was an active participant in global efforts to counter the illegal movement of funds for terrorist purposes and would continue to support the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts and establishing legal norms.

119. International networks with links to organized crime were a critical lifeline for terrorist groups, enabling them to propagate their ideologies, acquire arms and fund their activities through human and arms trafficking, money-laundering and cybercrime. All States must pool their resources and share intelligence so as to combat that phenomenon. Sri Lanka appreciated the work accomplished by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in drafting three counter-terrorism conventions, namely the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The seventieth anniversary of the United Nations presented an ideal opportunity for Member States to finalize negotiations on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and her delegation urged Member States to overcome outstanding differences without undue delay. It was imperative to send a clear message on the resolve of the international community to combat terrorism.

120. Human development, and in particular the empowerment of women and youth, was of critical importance in the fight against terrorism. The eradication of poverty, in concert with increased social and economic opportunities, was essential to counter people's frustration and the threat of radicalization. Terrorism should not be associated with any ethnic group or religion. It was vital to cultivate tolerance and understanding between ethnic and religious groups if the terrorist threat was to be overcome. Measures taken to combat terrorism must be in line with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in particular international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law.

121. Sri Lanka was mindful of its obligation to recognize, safeguard and promote human rights and respect for the rule of law and good governance. Her Government's new vision for the country, based on sustainable development and reconciliation, was fully in line with that objective. The Government also intended to implement a new programme and plan of action in Sri Lanka to further advance human rights, peace and security. As a country which had eradicated terrorism from its soil following a violent and tragic era lasting nearly three decades, Sri Lanka attached great importance to international cooperation on efforts to combat terrorism. It looked forward to a constructive dialogue with all countries and would continue to work tirelessly to counter that scourge.

122. **Mr. Luna** (Brazil) said that terrorism must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations. Repudiation of terrorism was enshrined in Brazil's Constitution as a guiding principle of its foreign policy. Brazil was a signatory to 14 international legal instruments against terrorism negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations and also the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. Although it had no history of terrorist acts, Brazil had been attentive to prevention not only domestically, but also at the multilateral, regional and subregional levels. It was currently a member of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

123. No country was immune to terrorist threats, regardless of its size and resources, and all countries agreed on the urgent need for action. Unfortunately, some of the tools chosen to implement counter-terrorism efforts — particularly those involving use of force — had been counterproductive and of questionable legality. Brazil was a staunch defender of

the centrality of the United Nations in the coordination of global efforts to counter international terrorism. The Charter of the United Nations provided the legitimacy and the tools needed to develop and adopt measures for preventing and combating that scourge.

124. The current absence of a universally agreed definition of international terrorism was detrimental to the common goal of eliminating it. Like other delegations, Brazil underscored the importance of overcoming the stalemate in negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Those initiatives would complement existing instruments, provide a comprehensive legal framework and direct joint efforts in a more coordinated way. Filling that legal gap would help reinvigorate the rule-of-law dimension of counter-terrorism, a precondition for its effectiveness. It would also create the requisite conditions for ensuring that measures adopted at the regional and national levels respected due process and human rights.

125. The lack of a universally accepted legal definition made it difficult to have a proper understanding of the linkages between terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism. Although those three phenomena could be linked in specific circumstances, as in ISIL recruitment efforts, they were not automatically related. Racism, xenophobia and homophobia, for example, could lead to forms of violent extremism which had nothing to do with terrorism. It was therefore crucial to preserve that conceptual difference, as recognized in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), which referred specifically to violent extremism "conducive to terrorism".

126. Nor did terrorism have universal or intrinsic linkages with transnational organized crime, although the two phenomena might be interrelated under specific circumstances. While terrorism was essentially fuelled by political and ideological considerations and could represent a threat to international peace and security, transnational organized crime was usually motivated by the expectation of financial gain and remained primarily a matter of public security. Although international cooperation, upon request, was a valid tool for curbing transnational organized crime, at issue were different spheres of responsibility, to which different remedies should be applied.

127. By highlighting the differences between terrorism, on one hand, and radicalism, violent extremism and transnational organized crime, on the other, the conceptual distinction between “conflict” and “violence” was preserved. The formulation of much-needed strategies to tackle international terrorism must not be jeopardized because of unnecessary and avoidable confusion and polarization arising from imprecise terminology. A comprehensive convention would minimize that risk. Brazil called for flexibility on the part of all Member States so that outstanding issues could be resolved.

128. Prevention was always the best policy, and the threat of international terrorism could only be countered effectively through approaches that took into consideration its underlying causes, in particular social, political, economic and cultural exclusion. When legitimate grievances were seriously tackled by Governments and international governance structures, it created more flexible conditions for a unified front against a common enemy.

129. Counter-terrorism efforts would only be effective if they were consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, international refugee and humanitarian law, human rights law, including freedom of speech and the right to privacy, and other norms of international law. If counter-terrorism measures violated international legal standards, they defeated their own purpose and might even generate more extremism conducive to terrorism.

130. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) said that Uganda rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, for whatever purpose and by whomsoever committed, and it condemned the abhorrent acts of hostage-taking carried out by terrorist groups to raise funds. The use of the Internet and social media to recruit unsuspecting young people into terrorist organizations showed that no one was beyond the reach of the terrorists. International law and the basic rights and freedoms guaranteed by international law must, however, be upheld in collective efforts to combat terrorism. A successful fight against terrorism first required a definition of terrorism so as to distinguish it from legitimate forms of struggle.

131. Collective efforts by Uganda, together with its partners in the East African Community, had led to the arrest of Jamil Mukulu, leader of the so-called Allied Democratic Forces, a terrorist group modelled along

the lines of Al-Qaida and responsible for a series of crimes. In one particularly odious incident, members of that terrorist group had locked up schoolboys in a school dormitory and had set it on fire, killing more than 60 children. Jamil Mukulu was in custody awaiting trial. He had been accorded all the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of Uganda; even in cases of the most despicable offences, Uganda upheld the rule of law. Other countries should do likewise in similar situations.

132. For terrorism to be eradicated, however, its root causes must be identified and addressed, as occasional successes in combating terrorists would not lead to ultimate victory. Poverty, in which terrorism thrived, must be tackled. To that end, Uganda focused on wealth creation at the household level, rather than on the export of raw materials, an approach that helped create jobs and boosted domestic demand.

133. It was essential to cooperate on measures aimed at denying terrorists safe havens, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, reducing State vulnerability and enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Uganda was the biggest contributor to the forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and in that capacity it had been at the forefront of the fight against the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. Terrorists often took advantage of weak government structures to force recruits into their ranks. Consequently, greater efforts must be made to assist the Government of Somalia in developing institutions to deal with terrorist organizations that used Somalia as a safe haven.

134. It was regrettable that Uganda’s repeated calls to address the dumping of toxic waste off the coast of Somalia continued to go unheeded. That issue, which had wide-ranging ramifications, must be comprehensively addressed. The international community ignored the problem at its peril, because one day those dumping grounds could become arsenals for terrorists if they succeeded in recycling that material to obtain weapons of mass destruction. That reprehensible practice must stop, and those responsible must be held accountable and must be required to clean up the affected sites.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*